

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01

SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-02 PRS-01 AID-05 AGR-05 AGRE-00

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R 161945Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2383

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR BL

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL: CONVERSATION BETWEEN GOB
AND NARCOTICS SURVEY TEAM LEADER

1. SUMMARY: ON SEPTEMBER 14 TEAM LEADER NICHOLSON AND I MET WITH SENIOR GOB OFFICIALS FOR A THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF ALL PHASES OF THE MUTUAL NARCOTICS PROGRAMS AND AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED AS TO THE GENERAL LINES OF USG ASSISTANCE AND BOLIVIAN ACTIONS.

2. ON SEPTEMBER 14 RONALD NICHOLSON, NARCOTICS SURVEY TEAM LEADER, AND I MET WITH THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR AND AGRICULTURE AND COLONEL APARACIO OF DNSP AND GROVER BARJA, ACTING SUBSECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS AND CONTROL BASED ON THE SURVEY TEAM'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND ON GOB PLANS AND INTENTIONS. NICHOLSON DESCRIBED BRIEFLY THE INTEREST OF THE US IN COMBATTING DRUG TRAFFICKING AND THE PRODUCTION OF NARCOTICS SUBSTANCES. HE CONGRATULATED THE BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES FOR THEIR FORTHRIGHT ADHERENCE IN THIS FIGHT AND INDICATED THAT WASHINGTON WAS DELIGHTED WITH THE

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EXTRAORDINARY OFFER PRESIDENT BANZER MADE TO SECRETARY

KISSINGER TO STEP UP BOLIVIAN EFFORTS PROVIDED THE US INCREASED ITS TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT. NICHOLSON INDICATED THAT AFTER DUE CONSIDERATION IN VARIOUS AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT FORD HAD AUTHORIZED A LONG-TERM US COMMITMENT TO A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF COOPERATION WITH THE BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES IN SEVERAL ASPECTS OF NARCOTICS CONTROL.

3. NICHOLSON REVIEWED THE SURVEY TEAM'S FINDINGS IN THE AREA OF LAW ENFORCEMENT. HE NOTED THAT DNSP WAS A SMALL POLICE FORCE, QUITE NEW, WITH INEXPERIENCED PERSONNEL. HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT THE AGENTS WERE ENTHUSIASTIC AND HAVE DONE EXTREMELY WELL WITH LIMITED RESOURCES IN THE PAST YEAR UNDER NEW AND COMPETENT LEADERSHIP. HE EXPRESSED USG APPRECIATION FOR GOB ASSISTANCE IN THE TROCHE CASE, THE COCAINE CONSPIRACY CASE, AND CONGRATULATED THEM ON THE RECENT SMASHING OF A CHILEAN-COLOMBIAN TRAFFICKING RING. HE WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT DNSP DESPERATELY NEEDS AN INFORMATION/INTELLIGENCE UNIT. HE SUGGESTED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GROUP OF FOUR OR FIVE ANALYSTS WITHIN DNSP TO MAKE A CRASH EFFORT AT IMPROVING BASES FOR ENFORCEMENT ACTION. HE OFFERED US ASSISTANCE FOR TRAINING THE GROUP THROUGH TDY SPECIALISTS AND THE ASSIGNMENT OF A FULL-TIME EXPERT TO LA PAZ TO COOPERATE WITH DNSP. THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR ACKNOWLEDGED THE DEFICIENCY, CITED THE ABSOLUTE NEED FOR FIMR INFORMATION ON WHICH TO BASE ACTIONS, AND ACCEPTED THE OFFER OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

4. MR. NICHOLSON NOTED THE DESPARATE NEED OF DNSP FOR VEHICLES AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. HE SAID THAT THE US WOULD SUPPLY SUCH EQUIPMENT AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE AND WOULD LIKE TO ASSIST THE BOLIVIANS IN ESTABLISHING AN ADEQUATE MAINTENANCE FACILITY. THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AGAIN ACKNOWLEDGED THE SERIOUS LACK OF A MAINTENANCE CAPABILITY AND URGED THAT THE US BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE IN ASSISTING THEM IN DEVELOPING THIS CAPABILITY.

5. NICHOLSON DEPLORED THE VIRTUAL LACK OF CONTROL OVER DEPARTING PASSENGERS THROUGH THE INTERNATION AIRPORTS OF LA PAZ AND SANTA CRUZ. HE REPORTED HIS CONCERN THAT THE LARGE NUMBER OF SMALL AIRSTRIPS AND AIRCRAFT IN THE SANTA CRUZ DEPARTMENT MADE TRAFFICKING TO BRAZIL AND PARAGUAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VERY EASY. THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AGREED THAT ADDITIONAL STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN IN TIGHTENING UP CONTROLS ON DEPARTING PASSENGERS BUT REPEATED THAT BETTER INFORMATION FLOWING FROM AN INTELLIGENCE UNIT WOULD ENABLE THE AUTHORITIES TO PINPOINT INDIVIDUALS TO CHECK OR AIRCRAFT TO MONITOR.

6. NICHOLSON NOTED THAT DNSP OFFICES IN LA PAZ WILL BECOME INADEQUATE WHEN ADDITIONAL AGENTS ARE HIRED AND THE NEW

COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT IS INSTALLED. THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR AGREED AND INSTRUCTED COLONEL APARACIO TO USE AVAILABLE MINISTRY FUNDS TO PURCHASE THE PRESENT LOCATION, WHICH IS BEING RENTED, AND TO SPEND THE MONEY NECESSARY TO RENOVATE THE SECOND FLOOR TO ACCOMMODATE THE NEW AGENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. THE MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT HE INTENDS TO BUILD UP THE DNSP UNIT IN SANTA CRUZ TO MAKE IT BETTER STAFFED AND EQUIPPED SO AS TO MOUNT A SPECIFIC OPERATION ON TRAFFICKING IN THAT AREA WHEN ADEQUATE INFORMATION IS ON HAND.

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7. NICHOLSON RAISED THE SUBJECT OF CONTROL OF NEW PLANTINGS OF COCA IN THE YUNGAS AND CHAPARE AREAS WHERE, IN HIS APINION, APPROPRIATE SUBSTITUTION WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ACHIEVED FOR SEVERAL YEARS. HE SAID THAT THE TEAM HAD OBSERVED INCREASES IN PLANTINGS AND INQUIRED AS TO GOB MEASURES TO COMBAT THIS. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE NEED TO EXPAND ITS ASSISTANCE TO THE EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS IN YUNGAS AND CHAPARE BUT PRINCIPALLY AT THE LOJOTA STATION IN VILLA TUNARI. HE SAID BUILDINGS NEED TO BE ERECTED AND TECHNICIANS ASSIGNED WHO WILL PUT IN A FULL-TIME EFFORT AT THE EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS. HE NOTED THAT IN THE PROPOSALS BEING PREPARED FOR ACCELERATING THE PILOT PROJECT THERE WILL BE HEAVY EMPHASIS ON MARKETING

STUDIES. HE STRESSED THE NEED TO HAVE THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF THE CAMPESINOS RESIDENT IN THE COCA-PRODUCING AREAS SO AS TO HAVE THEIR IDEAS ABOUT SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS. HE NOTED THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING SMALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS LAUNCHED PROMPTLY IN THE YUNGAS AND CHAPARE TO AMELIORATE THE ADVERSE PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF REGISTRATION AND CONTROL, AS WELL AS TO SERVE AS A BASIS FOR ORIENTATION TOWARD SUBSTITUTION AND CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION ABOUT NEW PRODUCTS. THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AGREED THAT ADDITIONAL EFFORTS MUST BE MADE BY HIS MINISTRY AND THAT SOME DEFICIENCIES WERE ATTRIBUTABLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO SHORTAGE OF BUDGETARY FUNDS AND LOW PAY FOR TECHNICIANS. HE CITED ALSO COMPETITION FOR LABOR FROM PETROLEUM COMPANY EXPLORATION BUT, TOGETHER WITH THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, EVIDENCED A CLEAR INTENTION TO ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL BUDGETARY ITEMS AND TO MEET REQUIREMENTS FOR MAKING THE PILOT PROJECT A SUCCESS. THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE SAID THAT US FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WILL BE INDISPENSABLE. HE THEN MADE A LENGTHY AND IMPRESSIVE STATEMENT OF THE NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUARANTEED MARKETS FOR ALTERNATE CROPS TO BE PRODUCED IN THE YUNGAS AND CHAPARE. APART FROM MARKETING STUDIES, HE SAID THAT THERE NEEDS TO BE MARKETING ACTIONS SUCH AS IDENTIFYING ABROAD POTENTIAL DEMANDS FOR BOLIVIAN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. HE RECOMMENDED THAT IN THE CASE OF COFFEE, WHICH COULD BE EXPANDED IN THE YUNGAS, THE US SERIOUSLY CONSIDER NOT JUST HELPING WITH THE QUOTA WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT BUT TO STIMULATE US COFFEE IMPORTERS TO ENTER INTO LONG-TERM PURCHASE AGREEMENTS WITH BOLIVIAN SUPPLIERS. HE SAID THE BOLIVIAN CAMPESINOS WERE WELL DISPOSED TO SWITCH FROM COCA IF THEY COULD FORESEE A GUARANTEED MARKET FOR THEIR NEW PRODUCTS. HE URGED NICHOLSON TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO BRING ABOUT A MORE ACTIVE ROLE BY THE US IN INCREASING COFFEE IMPORTS FROM BOLIVIA. HE AND THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR NOTED THAT IN THE SHORT RUN THE AUTHORITIES MUST SPEED UP THE PROGRAM FOR REGISTRATION OF COCA FARMERS AND ASSURE THAT COA PRODUCTION IS NO MORE THAN THAT WHICH IS REGISTERED. COLONEL APARACIO REPORTED THAT PERSONNEL ARE NOW BEING TRAINED TO LAUNCH THE REGISTRATION EFFORT AND THAT WITHIN TWO MONTHS STATE I OF THE REGISTRATION, WHICH IS A CALL FOR VOLUNTARY INSCRIPTION, WILL BE INITIATED. THE SECOND STAGE, CONSISTING OF FARM VISITS, WILL BE LAUNCHED THEREAFTER AND THE ENTIRE PROGRAM MAY BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE NEXT SIX OR EIGHT MONTHS. THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ALSO PROPOSED, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR, THAT THE US STIMULATE US INVESTORS INTO CONSIDERING JOINT VENTURES FOR AGRO-INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS IN THE YUNGAS AND CHAPARE.

8. IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHAPARE, ACTING SUBSECRETARY BARJA DESCRIBED SOIL MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE HUMIDITY

OF SOIL IN THAT AREA. HE SAID THAT MORE EXPERIMENTAL
RESEARCH WILL BE REQUIRED TO DEVELOP PRODUCTS FOR SUBSTITUTION.
HE ASKED FOR AN INCREASE IN US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INPUTS
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TO BREAK THIS BOTTLENECK IN CROP SUBSTITUTION IN THE CHAPARE
AREA.

9. THE MEETING WAS MARKED BY GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE
NEAR-TERM US INPUTS AND OBJECTIVES AS WELL AS THE CLARITY
OF INTENTION AND SINCERITY OF PURPOSE ON THE PART OF THE
BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES TO INTENSIFY LAW ENFORCEMENT, BRING NEW
PLANTINGS UNDER CONTROL, AND ARRANGE FOR THE APPROPRIATE
MEASURES FOR INCOME SUBSTITUTION AND NATIONAL NARCOTICS
ENFORCEMENT.

10. THE FOREGOING WAS NOT REVIEWED WITH TEAM LEADER NICHOLSON
AND, WHILE I BELIEVE IT IS AN ACCURATE REPORT OF THE
CONVERSATION, MAY HAVE FAILED TO INCLUDE POINTS WHICH
MR. NICHOLSON MAY RECALL WHICH WILL BE OF INTEREST TO
READERS OF THIS TELEGRAM. THE TEAM MADE AN EXCELLENT
IMPRESSION ON OFFICIALS OF THE GOB WHO WERE IMPRESSED
BY THEIR KNOWLEDGE, DEDICATION, AND REALISTIC ATTITUDES
TOWARD MUTUAL COOPERATION.
STEDMAN

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